

What is claimed is:

1. A method for loading a plurality of liquid samples into a through-hole array,
the liquid samples residing in wells of a microtiter plate characterized by a
5 well-to-well spacing, the through-hole array characterized by a hole spacing
that is an integral fraction of the well-to-well spacing of the microtiter plate,
the method comprising:
 - a. positioning an array of transfer members, each transfer member disposed
for drawing liquid from a distinct well of the microtiter plate;
 - 10 b. drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate to each of
the transfer members;
 - c. registering the array of transfer members with a subset of through-holes
of the through-hole array; and
 - d. dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members into through-
15 holes of the through-hole array.
2. A method for loading a plurality of liquid samples in accordance with claim
1, further including stacking a plurality of through-hole arrays in registration
such that liquid samples are deposited from each transfer member into a
plurality of through-holes.
- 20 3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the
liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid from a
capillary.
4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the
liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid from
25 tubing of a pipette.
5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the
liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid by means
of a syringe.
6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid
30 samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid into a

capillary.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid into tubing of a pipette.
- 5 8. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid by means of a syringe.

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